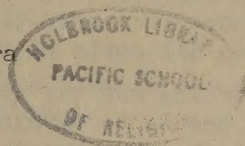


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TWO KYODAN DISTRICTS BREAKING STALEMATES

Two districts--Tokyo and Kanagawa--out of the five Kyodan districts that were unable to convene district assemblies last year--have announced plans to meet during May.

The Tokyo District Assembly will be held May 25-26. The location is set tentatively as Tokyo Yamate Church. Election of officers and committee members will take place first, followed by the establishment of a special study committee on Kyodan problems and election of Kyodan General Assembly delegates.

The Tokyo district has been immobilized since Oct. 1969 when its officers resigned. The resignations were never accepted, although during the year Rev. Rinzo Washiyama has been acting chairman of the executive committee; he is also chairman of the preparatory committee for the coming Assembly.

The Kanagawa District Assembly, which adjourned last June without taking up a number of basic problems or electing General Assembly delegates, will approach its business from a different direction when it assembles May 23-24 at Yokohama Shuro Church. It will first take up the fundamental policy of the district, leaving the election of officers, committee members and delegates until the second day. Kanagawa district executive committee members have been visiting individual churches to discuss the district's fundamental policy.

SHISHIDO ATTACKS JAPAN AND U.S. ROLES IN VIETNAM

"Japan is always faced with the temptation to become a second America in Asia," Prof. Yutaka Shishido told the first monthly study meeting of SODEPAX Japan, held at the Japan Christian Center April 17, "but this certainly must be avoided, for that would serve neither the peace nor the development of Asian nations."

SODEPAX Japan (Commission for Society, Development and Peace), inaugurated in January (JCAN No. 381, Jan. 22), has chosen the theme "Asia and Japan" for a series of study meetings to be held this year.

Shishido, author of Asia in the Seventies (JCAN No. 385, March 26) led off the series with a talk on "The Indochina War and Japan." Following an analysis of the failure of the United States and Saigon armies, he asked, "What has Japan been doing in the meantime?" "Mister Economic Animal has been making money," he continued sarcastically. "The volume of Japan's exports to Saigon surpass even those of the United States...But now the Japanese government is being forced to do something more than this."

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SHISHIDO ATTACKS JAPAN AND U.S. ROLES IN VIETNAM (continued)

Asked what measures the Japanese government should take, Shishido said, "The most important thing at the present moment is to try to end the war. The government should not encourage the export of goods (iron plate, cement, etc.) that directly or indirectly serve the war. It should take a strong stand on the policy on U.S. bases in Japan, from which military expeditions are launched. It must be cautious on all sorts of aid to nations in a state of internal conflict."

Most piercing was the question of a Korean pastor: "Is it the nature of the Japanese people to always sit in judgment and do nothing to help but only make a profit when neighboring countries are suffering? During the Korean War, what Christian group, or what group of any kind, extended hands to help us?"

On Friday, May 21 Prof. Kakuten Hara, Kato Gakuin University, will lecture on "Asian Economy--particularly agriculture and food problems" at the Japan Christian Center at 7:00. The June 18 meeting will be on "Japan-China Relationships." Details on the three-day summer conference on "The Asian People's View of the Japanese and the Japanese View of Other Asian Peoples" will be announced later. Contact person for SCDEPAX Japan is Fr. Masanori Fujiwara, c/o NCCJ, Japan Christian Center.

OSAKA PASTORS PRESS FOR ACTION ON WORLD ISSUES

"What are you going to do about the world struggle against racism and militarism?" a group of Kansai pastors are asking church leaders.

In an open letter to leaders of The United Church of Christ and the National Christian Council in Japan (March 13 Kyodan Shimpo) the "Osaka Shinkyoshoku Danwakai" asked what these bodies are planning to do in connection with three programs of the World Council of Churches: 1) aid to American draft dodgers and conscientious objectors in Canada, 2) efforts to combat racism in South Africa, 3) relief to Palestinian refugees. The pastors enclosed a financial contribution to be sent to the WCC for the work of the Canadian NCC with American draft dodgers and asked what the Japan NCC intends to do to promote the fund in Japan.

In a second letter, which was addressed to Dr. Takeda Cho, newly elected as one of the WCC presidents, (Kirisuto Shimbum March 27) the "Osaka Zaihan Shinkyoshoku Kondankai" (including most of the persons from the former group) asked Dr. Cho what she intends to be to implement WCC recommendations on 1) protesting against business and government support of racist regimes in South Africa and 2) keeping alert to business involvements such as the Portuguese dam construction project in Africa.

The reply from the NCC and Kyodan officials (Shimpo March 13) expressed appreciation for the contribution to the WCC fund and referred also to the plan being formulated for Japanese to assume more responsibility for a ministry to American servicemen in the Iwakuni area. The letter acknowledged the activity of Japanese trading firms in Africa but did not refer to specific plans to combat it.

With regard to racism, the letter said the NCC Japan is now giving priority to protecting the human rights of Koreans in Japan. It also commended the Osaka pastors for their concern with these crucial issues.

With regard to the Middle East, the reply admitted, "The frank fact is... that the most we have done so far is to introduce the Japanese churches to the true situation in the Middle East, the Middle East being far removed from our country." Active relief action has barely begun."

No reply has been printed yet from Dr. Cho.

CORMOS IS NEWEST RELIGIONS ALLIANCE

CORMOS is the initial-name of one of the newest groupings in the current reshuffling of alliances and allegiances. The Conference on Religion and Modern Society was organized by 30 persons who met in Kyoto, March 29-30. Nishitani Keiji, professor emeritus of Kyoto University, is president. One office will be established in the NCC Center for the Study of Religions in Kyoto, with Rev. Masatoshi Doi in charge, and another in the Institute for the Study of Religions in Sophia University, Tokyo, with Hidenori Cishi in charge.

The purpose of the new organization is four-fold:

- 1) to study the possibility, importance and methods of dialogue and cooperation among religious groups,
- 2) to analyze and seek to understand modern society from the standpoint of religion,
- 3) to undertake a thoroughgoing examination, in the light of the day's innumerable scientific achievements, of what religion is and what it ought to be,
- 4) to encourage religious leaders to ask themselves, as they discuss various matters related to contemporary society--as, above all, they deal with the issue of peace--what religion can and ought to do to help resolve the questions raised.

MONEY-MISSIONARY PATTERNS CHANGING

"Changes are coming" was the tone of the fall Council of Cooperation meeting April 16 at the Japan Christian Center. While details are yet to be worked out, Council members representing Christian social work, Christian schools, The United Church of Christ in Japan and North American churches linked in the COC indicated that personnel and financial relationships are entering a period of change.

Plans to establish a "Japan North American Council--JNAC" based in New York for future cooperative mission efforts in Japan and North America were reported by Rev. Frank Carey, United Church of Canada, and Rev. Robert Northup, IBC executive secretary.

In the current mood of reevaluating the missionary role, Kyodan General Secretary Toru Takakura announced that the Kyodan's recess in inviting new evangelistic missionaries, in effect since Sept. 1969, is drawing to a close. The interim report of the Kyodan personnel committee, which has been studying the place of missionaries in the Kyodan, indicates that beginning September new evangelistic missionaries will be invited to work with the Kyodan in line with new guidelines resulting from the committee's study.

Chairman Noboru Niwa of the Christian Social Work League reported the decision of the executive committee that future invitations to social work personnel from abroad will be limited to the following classifications:

- 1) a few persons already deeply rooted in Japanese social work
- 2) highly trained specialists who would come on a comparatively short-term basis to exchange knowledge and techniques
- 3) persons with comprehensive knowledge of social work to work with Japanese counterparts for specified periods.

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MONEY/MISSIONARY PATTERNS CHANGING (continued)

Education Secretary Ruth Elmer, responsible for the placement of educational missionaries, reported the serious shortage of teaching missionaries in comparison to the number of requests. She referred to efforts to set up the machinery for relating persons desiring to come as contract teachers with schools needing teachers, in view of the shortages both of missionary board support for teaching missionaries and of persons applying for the missionary teacher category.

In the area of financial support from overseas, the Kyodan this year is limiting its requests for cooperative funds to special projects such as newtown evangelism and broadcasting (aside from the rather large amounts that go into missionary support and work budgets). Elimination of askings for other Kyodan items is in line with the policy of financial independence announced three years ago and achieved this year.

The Christian Social Work League foresees the continuing need for subsidies, at least until Japanese churches assume a larger share of the support of Christian social work. However, Hideo Fuse announced that the League is revising its distribution of overseas funds to give priority to current needs and new projects and to settlements, which do not receive government aid.

UNREVOLUTIONARY YOUTH IN A REVOLUTIONARY AGE

Youth workers in Japan today are being swept along with the youth culture, with few signs of their taking a creative part in the so-called revolutionary era, according to a study conducted during the past year by the NCC Youth Committee. A report of the study was presented to, and discussed by, Youth Committee members who met in Tokyo March 14-15. Jintaro Ueda, YMCA staff member and member of the Youth Committee of the NCC, summarized for JCAN the proceedings of the meeting.

Beginning with a rundown on the situation among youth today, various committee members reported their observations from which two tendencies became clear: 1) the creative minority is shrinking, and 2) whereas at one time the mass of young people looked admiringly at the creative minority and wished to become part of it, today they no longer are attracted by or to it.

Committee members noted that it has more or less been the role of the church to encourage young people to go along with the creative minority that is committed to removing the walls and problems that persist in the society.

The 1970 study, which focused particularly on young workers, revealed the same phenomenon in that sector of the youth society. The study was conducted as part of a research project on "The Ecumenical Ministry to Youth in a Revolutionary Age" supported financially by the World Council of Churches Youth Department.

The study, now being printed, shows that among young workers, 30% change jobs during the first year of employment without any particular reason. The point is that they don't want to commit themselves to anything. Yet they are unaware neither of the nature nor the source of their restlessness.

The committee, after hearing and discussing the report, reached the crucial question: What should the church do? This proved a difficult question, and the final decision was to continue the study project for a second year, giving attention to what the church should do to minister to these youth masses.

But another question also bothered the Youth Committee: Is the church expected to face only this youth mass? Are there no creative minorities left? If there are, should the church support them? The first part of the study on "Ecumenical Ministry to Youth in a Revolutionary World" will be made available in Japanese in the near future. Takenori Takimoto has primary responsibility for the research and writing.

PIANIST DORNON FLUTIST TAKAHASHI TO GIVE BENEFIT CONCERT

Concert pianist Eleanor Dorning, and NHK Symphony flutist Yasuhara Takahashi will present a benefit concert for Inochi no Denwa on Thurs., May 27, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Mejiro at 6:30. For information and tickets, call 482-7822 (Mrs. Lucas) or 322-4734 (Mrs. Yamaya).

Eleanor Dornon is a missionary living in Sendai and the wife of Ivan Dornon. She has recently returned from a concert tour in South East Asia. Takahashi will be accompanied by two other instrumentalists.

GREGORY HOFFMAN DIES

Gregory Hoffman, 23, whose serious condition as a result of burns was reported in the last JCAN, died in Tokyo on April 10. He is survived by his wife, Laura, who has returned to the United States. The Hoffmans were teaching in Asahikawa as Prince of Peace Volunteers.

WORLD LUTHERAN CONSULTATION

One hundred fifty delegates will meet, hosted by Japan Lutherans, April 29-May 4 to consider "The Role of Lutheranism in an Ecumenical Age." The thrust of the consultation is how Lutherans who hold to the historic evangelical faith can most effectively contribute to the health and growth of the universal church. Speakers will be Dr. I Katoke, Tanzania, Rev. Chizuo Shibata, Tokyo Lutheran Center, Prof. Mbiti, Uganda. The consultation will meet at the Lutheran Center near Iidabashi.

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* The Report of the General Secretary, John Masaaki Nakajima, *
* to the Central Committee is available in English upon re- *
* quest to the JCAN or NCC. *

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HEADLINE-MAKING EVENTSA View of the April 11 Tokyo Elections.....by Anthony A. Carter

Japan, in terms of its political and economic organization, has often been likened to a stage play. The main director and producer of the play is big business and industry. The central actors are the Prime Minister and his Cabinet. The stagehands are the government bureaucracy. This symbiotic relationship between big business and government has been a reality of Japanese life ever since the beginning of Japan's modern century with the government of Prime Minister Sato continuing solidly in this tradition.

Re-election of Ryokichi Minobe to his second term as progressive Governor of Tokyo, a victory that could be termed a minor landslide, should be a signal to the Sato government that the city dwellers (there was a progressive party victory in Osaka also) would like to develop some priorities other than those resulting from the symbiotic relationship between government and industry.

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HEADLINE-MAKING EVENTS (continued)

Governor Minobe in his first-term in office did a great deal to shift the emphasis of metropolitan priorities somewhat away from uncritical support of big business and industry to development of a more humane urban environment. He managed to give Tokyo a badly needed facility for the training of the physically handicapped, a facility that is second to none. He was able to provide greater safety for the pedestrian in a city that is an automobile jungle where the only law that drivers obey is the law of survival of the fittest. His fight against a very badly polluted environment as evidenced in the very elaborate pollution detection system that has been installed as well as the strict laws that have been passed (laws that are stricter than those of the central government) indicate a continuing trend toward more humane priorities.

It is this shift of emphasis in priorities that is seen by this writer as a very good sign that the Japanese are beginning to value the quality of the lives that they lead as much or more than a galloping GNP.

. compiled by Ichiji Yokota

AIICHIRO FUJIYAMA, WHO RECENTLY VISITED Communist China, says China hopes cabinet ministers can also visit soon. Around Oct. 10, China's foundation day, a mission of 40-50 members will be sent.

THE COMMUNITY CHINE TABLE TENNIS TEAM PURCHASED 1 passenger car, 2 micro-buses and 2 fullsize buses from Toyota and Hino while in Japan, for the first import of cars into China from Japan.

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS VISITED THE HIROSHIMA CENOTAPH for the souls of atomic bomb victims April 16. Anticipated demonstrations by A-bomb victim youth association were cancelled by order of Prime Minister.

JAPAN'S HAUL OF FISH EXCLUDING WHALE REACHED 8,610,000 tons, worth ¥848.8 billion (\$2,358 million) in 1969. Japan remains Number One.

NUMBER OF BANKRUPTCIES REACHED ALL-TIME HIGH of 10,160 in 1970, exceeding previous high recorded in 1968, according to Tokyo Bureau of Commerce and Industry report.

CHONG SUK PARK, 19, GRADUATE OF KEIO UNIVERSITY, WAS REFUSED EMPLOYMENT by Hitachi Industries when he was found to be Korean. He was born in Japan, his grandfather having been brought in as a laborer. Park has instituted a suit against the company. A hundred persons, including Koreans identified with North and South, Japanese, an American missionary, and a Vietnamese student were present at a meeting April 18 to gain supporters for Park in his test case.